

# The Final Act

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2006-02-02

## Cast of Characters

(In order of appearance)

Clarisse: The real body of a girl.<sup>1</sup>

Aerith: Clarisse's mother.<sup>2</sup>

DClarisse: Clarisse's personification in her dreams.

Animus: Clarisse's Animus archetype.<sup>3</sup>

Hero: Clarisse's Hero archetype.<sup>2</sup>

James: Clarisse's Father.<sup>3</sup>

Shadow: Clarisse's Shadow archetype<sup>1</sup>

## Story Summary:

Clarisse, a 23 year-old girl who had gone into a coma after witnessing the murder of her father, tries to recover self-repressed memories.

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<sup>1</sup>These people are the same.

<sup>2</sup>These people are the same.

<sup>3</sup>These people are the same.

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3

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## Prologue

(Scene: Blank stage. Clarisse is kneeling center stage, chanting. Lights fade on.)

Clarisse: (This is her chant) Gloria Patrea et filio da pachem, gloria patriea et filio da pachem.... (continues)

(Aerith enters stage left)

Aerith: Poor girl. She used to be mine. At one time she was, at least. She's not anymore. She probably wouldn't be so bad if she wasn't the daughter of a devil. Poor girl. Stupid demon. (Slaps Clarisse)

Clarisse: (Changing her chant. The end of the chant and Aerith's next line must end simultaneously. Her voice slowly becomes louder and more strained) Sicut erat en principio et nunc et semper et en secula seculorum magnificat anima mae -

Aerith: I hate her. I hate anything to do with demons. And I know what she's saying, too. I once studied Latin. she's saying "May the glory be with the father and the son; grant peace"

Clarisse: (Her voice is almost supernatural as she nears the end of her chant. In a scream, she proclaims:) DA PACHEM!

(Clarisse falls. Aerith ignores her. As the lights fade, Aerith says one last comment:)

Aerith: How could I have loved any of them?

## Scene 1

(scene: Blank stage. Lights fade on. DClarisse enters.)

DClarisse: What happened? Where am I? I can't remember anything anymore. ... Amnesia? No. No concussions or anything like that.

Animus: (entering) Oh. Hello. I didn't expect you'd be here yet. Oh well. At least I'm already perpaired.

DClarisse: Who are you?

Animus: Well, technically speaking, I am you.

DClarisse: What? Don't try to confuse me. Only I am me. leave me alone about that. It's the only thing that I have at the moment.

Animus: Well, technically, it's more accurate to say that "You are me" then "I am you." You just mirror me, that's all.

DClarisse: How dare you call me a copycat! I've tried my whole life —

Animus: — to try to be an individual! Exactly. You mock me.

DClarisse: Oh, just be quiet. You know it's impossible I can't imitate someone I haven't even met. I haven't met you, have I?

Animus: That's too hard of a question to answer in terms that you can understand.

DClarisse: Oh, so now I'm stupid.

Animus: Just misinformed. Now please listen. Do you know why you're here?

DClarisse: No. And you?

Animus: Yes, In fact. You're here because someone stole something from you.

DClarisse: And how do you know that? Perhaps you stole it yourself!?

Animus: All right, I'm sick of this! Stop giving me the spin! I'm telling the truth! It's impossible to lie to you! Forget it, I'm leaving! ... No, I'm not. Listen. Go out and find the Shadow and get it back. ... Alright, now I'm leaving! (Exit Animus) DClarisse: Was it something I said? (Lights fade to

black)

## Scene 2

(Scene: The stage now contains a boom box, pre-queued to a heroic theme. It is preferably on a stool med-stage right. Lights up. DClarisse enters stage left)

DClarisse: Wow. I'm so bored. (Noting the Boombox) Oh, how convenient! (skips over and presses play.) Oh.... I finally have a boombox, but not a good tune.

(At an emotional climax of the song, The Hero enters)

Hero: Yo ho! Who needs me to save them now. I hope it's that 'damsel' guy again! (finding DClarisse) Oh. It's just you. Why are you calling me?

DClarisse: Calling you? Who are you talking to? Me?

Hero: Is there anyone else around?

DClarisse: No, I guess not.

Hero: Well. You played my theme song.

DClarisse: What, that thing? You need to work on your composition. Nice playing, though.

Hero: I didn't make it. You did. (DClarisse takes a breath in preparation, but is interrupted by the Hero) Now, is there anything I can do for you?

DClarisse: Well, I am looking for something.

Hero: Really? What?

DClarisse: I don't really know. All I know is that someone named "The ShadowStole it from me.

Hero: (Almost to herself) What! The Shadow! Damn her! (Back to DClarisse) I've been trying to get rid of the shadow for years! I've defeated Thanatos, Hydra, even a Gorgon before! But still, I haven't defeated The Shadow...!

DClarisse: So you'll help me?

Hero: Heck no! This is personal; I'll help me! You're just coming with me! Lets go!

(The Hero grabs DClarisse and forces her to exit with her. They enter again from the other side of the stage. They repeat the process twice)

DClarisse: (upon re-entry of the stage) Let go of me! (wings hand free) I'm so tired. I can't walk any more. And I'm so hungry!

Hero: Fine. Have this. (Reaches into a pocket, grabs out peanut)

DClarisse: Thanks. (Takes and eats the peanut. Upon ingestion, She gasps and goes blank. The focus goes to the front of the stage, where Clarisse and James enter laughingly.)

Clarisse: Thanks, daddy. I wish that I could see you more oftenly. You hardly see me anymore!

James: I know. I really wish I could. But I can't. Your mother won't let me. Every time I try to see you, I get burned by her.

Clarisse: Even so, I really miss you much of the time. I don't really have many friends around here.

James: You could always go online.

Clarisse: No. mom took away the DSL in favor of her hobby.

James: You mean witchcraft?

Clarisse: So she told you about her new hobby?

James: What!!?? I was just joking! Are you serious?

Clarisse: This isn't the place to bug out about that.

James: You're right. She can sniff out emotions. Well, I'll see you later.

Clarisse: Bye daddy!

(They leave in opposite directions. Lights fade out.)

## Scene 3

(DClarisse and Hero on stage as before)

DClarisse: What was that?

Hero: What was what?

DClarisse: *that!* That scene!

Hero: I don't know. You may be delusional. Please don't be. I'll feel guilty.

(DClarisse reacts) Anyways, I've thought of the perfect way to induce the Shadows presence!

DClarisse: Really? What do we need to do!?

Hero: *You* don't need to do anything. Watch and learn. (She takes out a pocket watch from one of her pockets and fastens it loosely.)

DClarisse: What are you doing?

Hero: (under breath) Shut up! (in a loud and annoying voice that says I'm-so-rich-that-I-have-to-proclaim-it.") Oh, my darling toady, come with me to the markets. But oh, how will I spend my money? How! My, what a tragedy!

(They prance about the stage. Soon after, The Shadow sneaks up from behind them. When The Shadow tries to steal The Hero's Pocket watch, DClarisse issues out a short surprised yelp)

Hero: (turning around) A-Ha! Shadow, I knew you'd come out!

DClarisse: You! You look just like me!

Shadow: What! You're not supposed to be here, at least not yet!

DClarisse: Shut up! Why do you look like me?

Shadow: I *am* you. (trying to hide something) Now go away. I have nothing for you.

DClarisse: Not so fast! Someone told me that you have something of mine.

Shadow: No I don't. He must have been trying to frame me. He has your memory.

Hero: She lies! She has them!

DClarisse: (Speaking to herself) My memory...?

Shadow: (Drawing a weapon) Stop talking! You can't tell her! You'll die!

(The Hero draws her weapon and they fight. DClarisse is lost in thought. The Shadow drops a package but doesn't realize it. DClarisse takes it. The fight ends abruptly)

Shadow: No! Please. I took that away from you to save you! If you even look in it, you will never be the same again!

(silence)

DClarisse: My soul will not rest until I know. (She opens the box)

(Lights off!)

## Scene 4

(This scene is totally silent. Clarisse is facing left and James is facing right. Lights on dim. Clarisse starts to leave left, and James right. Aerith comes from left, runs past Clarisse, pushing her over, and stabs James. Clarisse sees this, gasps, and screams. lights out.)



## Epilogue

(The stage is blank and the lights are off.)

DClarisse: So. That's where I am. I'm 'dreaming.'

Animus: Why did mommy kill daddy?

DClarisse: He said that he'd see me again.

Animus: Maybe he didn't pay child support. Maybe he was threatening to do the same to her.

(Silence)

DClarisse: What can I do now?

Animus: We could wake up and tell the police to get revenge, or we can choose to go braindead and rejoin daddy....

(Silence)

DClarisse: Well .... I think I've made my choice, then.

(Curtains close  
Forever.)